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APPLICATIONS AND OFFERS FOR ENTRY TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/2013

INTRODUCTION

Each year local authorities submit data to the Department on how many families received an offer of a place at one of their preferred schools. On 1 March 2012, national offer day, the families of 503,734 children received an offer of a secondary school place to start in September 2012.

Please see the User Guide section of this release for relevant information on the collection and interpretation of the figures.

This is an **official statistics** publication, published in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

KEY POINTS

The headline figures are:

- 85.3 per cent of families received an offer of a place at their first preference school – an increase of 0.7 percentage points compared to March 2011 and continuing the recent rising trend.
- 95.9 per cent of families received an offer of a place at one of their top three preferred schools – an increase of 0.3 percentage points compared to March 2011 and continuing the recent rising trend.
- 97.6 per cent of families received an offer of a place at one of their preferred schools – an increase of 0.3 percentage points compared to March 2011 and continuing the recent rising trend.
- The North East continues to have the highest percentage of first preference offers at 95.1 per cent. London continues to have the lowest percentages, 65.8 per cent in 2012 for Inner London, 68.4 per cent for Outer London and 67.5 per cent for London overall.
- The number of applications has reduced each year since 2008 when data were first collected. There is less of a decrease in 2012 than in previous years – a 1.7 per cent decrease between 2011 and 2012, compared with a 3.3 per cent decrease between 2010 and 2011. The decline in secondary school pupil numbers is well documented. The Department for Education national pupil projections show that state-funded secondary school rolls of pupils aged under 16 have been in decline since 2004 and are expected to decline further until around 2016, when the increases in primary pupil numbers will start to flow through. The consequent increase in secondary school applications may affect future first preference percentages.

TABLES

Table 1 Applications and offers for entry to secondary schools in England in academic year 2012/13

In line with the Government's data transparency agenda, underlying data will be published at <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t001061/index.shtml> on 22 March 2012 in the 'Publication's Underlying Data' section.

USER GUIDE

The admissions process

1. The key features for parents can be summarised as follows:

- Each local authority co-ordinates admissions to the state funded schools for pupils in its area. Applications for each school are ranked against the school's published oversubscription criteria by the admission authority for the school. Where a child can be offered a place at more than one of their preferred schools, the local authority makes an offer at the school their parents ranked highest.
- Each local authority provides data on applicants resident in their area, including applications for schools in the area of other local authorities.
- Local authorities must publish information about the admissions criteria of schools in their locality including data on volume of applications for the available places in previous years (i.e. showing whether they are oversubscribed).
- Parents submit all their applications for state-funded schools on a single form returned via their home local authority.
- They must be invited to express a minimum of three preferences
- In almost all local authorities, parents are invited to apply for between three and six schools.
- Parents are asked to list the schools in order of preference.
- Local Authorities send parents a single offer of a school place on the same day at the beginning of March
- Parents are entitled to appeal to the relevant admission authority against their refusal to offer a place.

Data Collection

2. This is the fifth year that secondary preference data has been collected and published. These data enable local authorities and Admission Forums to compare outcomes with previous years, or compare themselves with areas with similar characteristics, and contribute to local discussion on how to improve the system and provision of places for parents. Data for 2011 is available at <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000993/index.shtml>.

3. Local authorities are required to provide the data to the Secretary of State on 1 March each year (or the next working day) as prescribed in The Information as to Provision of Education (England) Regulations 2008.

4. The Information as to Provision of Education (England) Regulations 2008 are available to view at http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/pdf/uksi_20080004_en.pdf.

5. The data includes returns from 151 local authorities. The Council of the Isles of Scilly has been excluded as it has one school where the normal point of entry is at aged 3 and pupils continue until aged 16.

Definitions

6. The following provides definitions of key headings used in Table 1:

- Home applicants – pupils living in the local authority
- National Curriculum Year of Admission – the normal curriculum year of entry to schools within the local authority i.e. Year 7 is aged 11. For some local authorities the year of entry varies from Year 7 and is indicated where appropriate.
- Applications received from parents of children living in the area of the authority – the number of applications received
- The sum of admission numbers of all secondary schools – the number of places available in schools within the local authority
- Number of preferences offered by the local authority – the number of schools parents can apply for in their application
- Percentage of offers communicated
 - a) First preference – percentage of applicants who received an offer of a place at their first preference school
 - b) Second preference – percentage of applicants who received an offer of a place at their second preference school
 - c) Third preference – percentage of applicants who received an offer of a place at their third preference school
 - d) A preferred school – percentage of applicants who received an offer of a place at one of their preferred schools (this may be up to a sixth preference school)
- Home applicants without an offer corresponding to any preference – percentage of applicants without an offer to one of their preferred schools
- Home applicants with an alternative offer – of those without an offer to a preferred school, the percentage of applicants with an offer to an alternative school.
- Home applicants with offers to a school in the area of the local authority – percentage of applicants living in the local authority area who received an offer to a school within the local authority area
- Home applicants with offers to a school in another local authority – percentage of applicants living in the local authority area who received an offer to a school in the area of another local authority

7. Local authorities have been asked not to include children with statements of special educational needs, as their parents are not required to apply for a school place. In 2009 and earlier years, local authorities were required to include such applications and record them as receiving first preference offers.

Guidance on interpretation of the local authority figures

8. A few points should be borne in mind when looking at the figures for each local authority:

- When the figure for 'Home applicants with an alternative offer' is lower than that for 'Home applicants without an offer corresponding to any preference', this is generally because local authorities have started another preference exercise (based on surplus places) or the child did not require another place/offer.
- The data relates to applications for transfer from primary to secondary school made during the normal admission round. The vast majority of returns are based on data for pupils moving to year 7, but a small number of local authorities have reported on another year group which is the normal point of entry in their area.
- These figures are based on offers made on national offer day and some changes may subsequently occur over the summer as a result of appeals and local authorities and schools re-allocating places as a result of applicants who have moved address or chosen a different route of education for their child.

9. As part of the data collection process, local authorities had the option to provide contextual information setting out factors which might impact on figures in their area. From the information provided several common issues emerged:

- The effect that having one or more very popular, heavily oversubscribed schools has on the percentage of applicants being offered a place at their first preference school.
- In local authorities that have selective schools; the effect on the percentage of applicants being offered their first preference school where parents do not know the outcome of tests before they express a preference.

Revisions/Updates

10. There are no planned revisions to this Statistical Release, however, if at a later date we need to make a revision, this will comply with the departmental revisions policy which is published at <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/nat-stats.shtml>.

General

11. Where any number is shown as zero (0), the original figure was also zero. Numbers of 1 and 2 have been suppressed, being replaced in the table by an "x". Where the numerator or denominator of any percentage calculated on numbers is 1 or 2, this has been replaced by an "x". "x" has also been used for secondary suppression to prevent disclosure.

12. All percentages have been rounded to one decimal place.

13. The following symbols have been used within this publication:

- 0 – zero
- x – small number suppressed to preserve confidentiality (see note 11 above)
- .

14. This is an Official Statistics publication. Official Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

15. Enquiries (non-media) or feedback about information contained in this release should be addressed to Schools Data Unit, Room 1F Area H, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington, Co Durham, DL3 9BG or e-mail schools.statistics@education.gsi.gov.uk

16. Media enquiries about information contained in this Statistical First Release should be made to the Department's Press Office at DFE, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT or telephone 020 7925 6789.

Table 1: Applications and offers for entry to secondary schools in England in academic year 2012/13
National Offer Day March 2012
Coverage: England

LA Code	National Curriculum Year of Admission	Numbers		Numbers	Numbers	Percentage of offers communicated				Percentages		Percentages			
		Applications received from parents of children living in the area of the authority	Online applications			The sum of the admission numbers of all secondary schools	Number of preferences offered by the local authority	First preference	Second preference	Third preference	One of the three preferences	A preferred school	Home applicants without an offer corresponding to any preference	Home applicants with an alternative offer	Home applicants with offers to a school in the area of the local authority
ENGLAND		503,734	67.3	585,825		85.3	7.8	2.8	95.9	97.6	2.4	2.2	91.8	8.2	
NORTH EAST		22,465	57.0	27,902	-	95.1	3.4	0.6	99.0	99.2	0.8	0.5	96.5	3.5	
E06000005	841 Darlington	7	1,003	31.5	1,227	3	92.6	4.5	0.8	97.9	97.9	2.1	1.8	98.3	1.7
E06000047	840 Durham	7	4,166	29.4	6,024	3	97.6	1.6	0.1	99.4	99.4	0.6	0.6	95.4	4.6
E08000020	390 Gateshead	7	1,796	68.3	2,142	3	96.1	x	x	99.1	99.1	0.9	0.9	97.1	2.9
E06000001	805 Hartlepool	7	972	78.4	1,141	3	99.7	x	x	99.9	99.9	x	x	99.3	0.7
E06000002	806 Middlesbrough	7	1,482	47.8	1,587	3	79.9	14.4	3.4	97.8	97.8	2.2	2.2	85.7	14.3
E08000021	391 Newcastle upon Tyne	7	2,026	84.6	2,527	4	93.8	3.1	1.1	98.1	99.6	0.4	0.4	97.5	2.5
E08000022	392 North Tyneside	7	1,368	66.2	1,834	3	97.9	1.2	0.4	99.5	99.6	0.4	0.4	94.6	5.4
E06000048	929 Northumberland	9	2,179	69.2	1,956	3	93.9	3.9	0.5	98.3	98.3	1.7	0.0	99.6	0.4
E06000003	807 Redcar and Cleveland	7	1,480	85.0	2,068	3	99.2	0.5	0.2	99.9	99.9	x	x	98.0	2.0
E08000023	393 South Tyneside	7	1,342	83.2	1,850	3	95.8	x	x	99.3	99.3	0.7	0.7	99.3	0.7
E06000004	808 Stockton-on-Tees	7	1,965	81.4	2,291	3	94.0	5.1	0.7	99.9	99.9	x	x	97.5	2.5
E08000024	394 Sunderland	7	2,686	17.3	3,255	3	96.6	2.3	0.2	99.1	99.1	0.9	x	96.5	3.5
NORTH WEST		70,391	59.1	84,451	-	90.8	6.0	1.5	98.3	98.6	1.4	1.4	93.4	6.6	
E06000008	889 Blackburn with Darwen	7	1,919	13.0	2,008	3	87.2	9.4	1.9	98.5	98.5	1.5	1.5	91.6	8.4
E06000009	890 Blackpool	7	1,275	55.6	1,614	3	94.4	4.5	0.4	99.3	99.3	0.7	0.7	87.8	12.2
E08000001	350 Bolton	7	3,000	75.4	3,619	3	93.3	4.1	1.1	98.5	98.5	1.5	1.5	96.5	3.5
E08000002	351 Bury	7	1,968	76.4	2,293	3	90.6	6.8	0.6	98.0	98.0	2.0	2.0	92.7	7.3
E06000049	895 Cheshire East	7	3,510	96.0	4,175	3	94.4	2.8	0.4	97.7	97.7	2.3	2.3	94.9	5.1
E06000050	896 Cheshire West and Chester	7	3,111	81.8	3,973	3	92.5	5.0	1.1	98.6	98.6	1.4	1.4	93.9	6.1
E10000006	909 Cumbria	7	4,598	72.4	5,982	3	98.3	x	x	99.7	99.7	0.3	0.3	99.7	0.3
E06000006	876 Halton	7	1,333	31.9	1,569	3	97.0	1.7	0.2	98.9	98.9	1.1	1.1	94.8	5.2
E08000011	340 Knowsley	7	1,626	63.1	1,500	3	87.4	7.6	2.3	97.3	97.3	2.7	2.7	58.5	41.5
E10000017	888 Lancashire	7	11,505	33.4	14,218	3	93.9	4.9	1.1	99.9	99.9	0.1	0.1	97.0	3.0
E08000012	341 Liverpool	7	4,344	13.0	5,152	3	84.8	10.1	2.9	97.8	97.8	2.2	2.2	94.3	5.7
E08000003	352 Manchester	7	4,661	61.4	5,125	6	80.0	10.8	3.7	94.4	95.8	4.2	4.2	85.1	14.9
E08000004	353 Oldham	7	2,750	48.4	3,088	6	88.0	6.7	1.7	96.5	97.3	2.7	2.7	93.2	6.8
E08000005	354 Rochdale	7	2,062	71.8	2,550	4	94.2	3.9	0.8	98.9	99.0	1.0	1.0	91.4	8.6
E08000006	355 Salford	7	1,875	75.9	2,542	6	95.6	2.7	0.6	98.9	99.3	0.7	0.7	91.1	8.9
E08000014	343 Sefton	7	2,665	36.0	3,581	3	94.5	3.8	0.4	98.7	98.7	1.3	1.3	98.1	1.9
E08000013	342 St. Helens	7	1,819	54.0	1,982	3	97.7	1.8	0.3	99.8	99.8	0.2	0.2	87.5	12.5
E08000007	356 Stockport	6	2,803	77.1	2,960	6	88.7	6.5	1.6	96.8	97.3	2.7	2.7	92.4	7.6
E08000008	357 Tameside	7	2,174	100.0	2,826	3	93.4	4.7	0.8	98.9	98.9	1.1	1.1	95.3	4.7
E08000009	358 Trafford	7	2,421	87.2	3,222	6	79.1	12.9	4.5	96.5	98.8	1.2	1.2	92.2	7.8
E06000007	877 Warrington	7	2,208	53.8	2,472	3	94.5	2.7	0.8	98.0	98.0	2.0	2.0	97.3	2.7
E08000010	359 Wigan	7	3,336	42.3	3,795	3	95.4	3.7	0.6	99.7	99.7	0.3	0.3	93.6	6.4
E08000015	344 Wirral	7	3,428	21.9	4,205	5	77.9	15.5	4.6	98.0	98.9	1.1	1.1	97.1	2.9
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER		52,091	50.5	61,318	-	91.2	5.6	1.5	98.3	98.5	1.5	1.4	94.6	5.4	
E08000016	370 Barnsley	7	2,263	26.4	2,550	3	98.5	1.0	0.1	99.6	99.6	0.4	0.4	92.0	8.0
E08000032	380 Bradford	7	6,664	42.4	6,262	5	81.2	11.6	3.4	96.1	97.6	2.4	2.4	90.8	9.2
E08000033	381 Calderdale	7	2,192	30.0	2,816	3	83.7	8.5	5.9	98.1	98.1	1.9	1.9	97.4	2.6
E08000017	371 Doncaster	7	2,973	13.7	3,716	3	96.1	2.5	0.3	98.9	98.9	1.1	1.0	98.0	2.0
E06000011	811 East Riding of Yorkshire	7	3,167	70.1	4,228	3	98.0	1.3	0.1	99.4	99.4	0.6	0.6	95.9	4.1
E06000010	810 Kingston Upon Hull, City of	7	2,571	19.9	2,297	3	93.5	4.6	0.8	98.9	98.9	1.1	0.9	87.4	12.6
E08000034	382 Kirklees	7	4,036	44.2	4,669	3	86.1	9.3	2.3	97.8	97.8	2.2	1.9	89.4	10.6
E08000035	383 Leeds	7	6,778	77.2	8,163	3	89.0	7.3	1.3	97.6	97.6	2.4	2.4	95.3	4.7
E06000012	812 North East Lincolnshire	7	1,597	20.5	1,933	3	94.9	3.8	0.4	99.1	99.1	0.9	0.9	95.2	4.8
E06000013	813 North Lincolnshire	7	1,686	33.7	2,167	3	97.0	2.6	0.0	99.6	99.6	0.4	0.4	95.6	4.4
E10000023	815 North Yorkshire	7	5,321	90.1	7,354	5	93.2	4.7	0.9	98.8	99.0	1.0	1.0	95.6	4.4
E08000018	372 Rotherham	7	2,758	13.6	3,638	3	95.8	2.2	1.5	99.5	99.5	0.5	0.5	99.3	0.7
E08000019	373 Sheffield	7	5,117	57.0	5,505	3	92.6	4.2	1.5	98.3	98.3	1.7	1.7	96.8	3.2
E08000036	384 Wakefield	7	3,290	51.9	4,259	3	94.7	2.8	1.0	98.6	98.6	1.4	1.4	98.6	1.4
E06000014	816 York	7	1,678	83.1	1,761	5	93.4	5.5	0.4	99.3	99.3	0.7	0.7	94.5	5.5

LA Code	National Curriculum Year of Admission	Applications received from parents of children living in the area of the authority	Numbers	Percentages	Numbers	Numbers	Percentage of offers communicated				Percentages		Percentages		
			Online applications		The sum of the admission numbers of all secondary schools	Number of preferences offered by the local authority	First preference	Second preference	Third preference	One of the three preferences	A preferred school	Home applicants without an offer corresponding to any preference	Home applicants with an alternative offer	Home applicants with offers to a school in the area of the local authority	Home applicants with offers to a school in another LA
SOUTH EAST			81,872	85.5	92,691	-	84.9	8.0	3.0	95.8	97.3	2.7	2.5	94.3	5.7
E06000036	867 Bracknell Forest	7	1,173	17.5	1,269	3	80.9	9.3	3.8	94.0	94.0	6.0	5.8	88.0	12.0
E06000043	846 Brighton and Hove	7	2,303	89.8	2,416	3	80.3	12.8	3.2	96.3	96.3	3.7	2.7	98.7	1.3
E10000002	825 Buckinghamshire	7	5,278	86.2	5,812	6	54.5	18.4	14.6	87.5	95.1	4.9	3.1	93.1	6.9
E10000011	845 East Sussex	7	4,749	90.1	5,504	3	93.0	3.9	0.5	97.4	97.4	2.6	2.6	95.4	4.6
E10000014	850 Hampshire	7	12,633	94.0	14,833	3	95.2	3.6	0.4	99.2	99.2	0.8	0.8	94.4	5.6
E06000046	921 Isle of Wight	7	1,241	35.3	1,545	3	94.7	x	x	94.8	94.8	5.2	5.2	99.9	0.1
E10000016	886 Kent	7	15,225	90.3	17,160	4	82.8	9.7	3.3	95.9	97.1	2.9	2.9	96.9	3.1
E06000035	887 Medway	7	2,828	82.5	3,326	6	86.7	8.6	2.4	97.7	98.6	1.4	1.4	94.5	5.5
E06000042	826 Milton Keynes	7	2,780	76.5	3,035	3	85.5	7.3	4.2	97.0	97.0	3.0	3.0	94.2	5.8
E10000025	931 Oxfordshire	7	5,992	90.6	6,922	3	90.8	5.2	1.4	97.3	97.3	2.7	2.7	97.3	2.7
E06000044	851 Portsmouth	7	1,666	70.6	2,039	3	93.8	4.4	0.8	99.0	99.0	1.0	1.0	91.5	8.5
E06000038	870 Reading	7	1,426	35.1	1,168	4	72.6	19.9	3.3	95.8	96.9	3.1	2.2	62.2	37.8
E06000039	871 Slough	7	1,642	94.4	1,652	6	40.8	15.3	11.3	67.4	91.3	8.7	8.7	86.4	13.6
E06000045	852 Southampton	7	1,941	95.1	2,290	3	89.5	6.8	1.4	97.7	97.7	2.3	2.3	88.9	11.1
E10000030	936 Surrey	7	10,068	95.1	10,989	6	84.0	8.5	2.7	95.2	96.5	3.5	3.5	95.5	4.5
E06000037	869 West Berkshire	7	1,603	45.9	2,058	3	90.0	7.2	1.1	98.2	98.2	1.8	1.8	96.1	3.9
E10000032	938 West Sussex	7	6,588	87.1	7,668	3	94.3	4.1	0.6	99.0	99.0	1.0	1.0	97.6	2.4
E06000040	868 Windsor and Maidenhead	7	1,063	46.1	1,268	4	79.4	7.4	4.1	91.0	94.3	5.7	1.5	83.1	16.9
E06000041	872 Wokingham	7	1,673	79.1	1,737	4	79.4	14.6	3.2	97.2	98.3	1.7	1.7	83.1	16.9
SOUTH WEST			45,798	80.5	56,134	-	91.7	5.6	1.2	98.5	98.5	1.5	1.4	93.0	7.0
E06000022	800 Bath and North East Somerset	7	1,639	84.5	2,330	3	93.7	4.8	0.2	98.7	98.7	1.3	1.3	97.7	2.3
E06000028	837 Bournemouth	7	1,338	77.4	1,878	3	71.5	21.0	4.3	96.9	96.9	3.1	3.0	93.3	6.7
E06000023	801 Bristol, City of	7	3,653	88.5	3,888	3	83.6	9.7	3.2	96.6	96.6	3.4	3.4	84.7	15.3
E06000052	908 Cornwall	7	4,715	70.2	6,232	3	98.7	0.8	0.2	99.7	99.7	0.3	0.3	98.3	1.7
E10000008	878 Devon	7	6,773	84.5	7,737	3	94.2	4.4	0.6	99.3	99.3	0.7	0.4	93.3	6.7
E10000009	835 Dorset	7	2,403	81.0	3,000	3	92.2	4.5	0.5	97.1	97.1	2.9	2.8	92.0	8.0
E10000013	916 Gloucestershire	7	5,701	90.3	6,966	4	87.3	7.1	1.8	96.3	96.6	3.4	3.4	93.0	7.0
E06000024	802 North Somerset	7	2,033	83.7	2,471	3	99.0	0.7	0.2	99.9	99.9	0.1	0.1	96.5	3.5
E06000026	879 Plymouth	7	2,315	84.6	2,963	3	91.6	6.0	2.0	99.6	99.6	0.4	0.4	97.8	2.2
E06000029	836 Poole	8	1,049	76.7	1,324	3	76.8	17.4	3.1	97.4	97.4	2.6	2.6	100.0	0.0
E10000027	933 Somerset	7	3,923	82.2	4,529	3	96.2	2.5	0.2	98.8	98.8	1.2	0.9	92.4	7.6
E06000025	803 South Gloucestershire	7	2,628	92.1	3,132	3	99.8	7.1	1.1	99.0	99.0	1.0	1.0	87.6	12.4
E06000030	866 Swindon	7	2,190	84.0	2,384	3	98.8	1.0	0.0	99.8	99.8	0.2	0.2	89.0	11.0
E06000027	880 Torbay	7	1,041	70.5	1,565	3	82.5	12.8	4.1	99.4	99.4	0.6	0.6	91.5	8.5
E06000054	865 Wiltshire	7	4,397	54.3	5,735	3	93.5	5.2	0.5	99.2	99.2	0.8	0.8	92.5	7.5

Source: 2012 Secondary Preference Data Collection

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Data collected from local authorities on National Offer Day - 1 March 2012.
2. Excludes Isles of Scilly which has one school where the normal point of entry is at aged 3 and pupils continue until aged 16.
3. See Statistical Report for definitions of the headings

x - percentage based on a value of 1 or 2 or prevents disclosure of small numbers.